

## Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 04642 01 OF 02 012324Z

73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

MBFR-04 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 SS-15 NSC-10 OMB-01 AEC-11

IO-15 H-03 DRC-01 /159 W

----- 116101

R 011942Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1876

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 4642

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/81

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SUB-GROUP ON TACTICAL AIR MEETING SEPTEMBER 18-20,  
1973

REF: A. AC/276(SGTA)-N/18 (2ND REVISE), 21 DECEMBER 1972

B. AC/276-R(73)18, 6 SEPTEMBER 1973

C. STATE 171725

SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS RESULTS OF MEETING OF MBFR  
SUB-GROUP ON TACTICAL AIR (SGTA) SEPTEMBER 18-20.

ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST MISSION BE PROVIDED WITH F-111  
EFFECTIVENESS DATA BY OCTOBER 10. END SUMMARY.

1. THE 11TH MBFR SGTA MEETING WAS HELD SEPTEMBER 18-20, 1973.

CHAIRMAN OPENED WITH A PREPARED STATEMENT ASSESSING THE COMPUTER  
MODEL RUNS OF THE BASE CASE AIR CAMPAIGN AND EXPRESSING CONCERN  
ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE REDUCTION RUNS. A COMPUTER WAR GAME  
OF THE BASE CASE BY THE UK DEFENSE OPERATIONS ANALYSIS ESTABLISH-

SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 04642 01 OF 02 012324Z

MENT (DOAE) RESULTS IN A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL NATO AIR CAMPAIGN.  
THE CHAIRMAN EMPHASIZED THAT THESE RESULTS WERE PREDICTABLE IN VIEW  
OF THE ASSUMPTIONS. HE DREW ATTENTION TO THE REVERSAL OF FORCE RATIO  
IN ATTACK AIRCRAFT, WHICH STARTED 1:1.4 IN THE WARSAW PACT

FAVOR AND BECAME 2:1 IN NATO'S FAVOR AFTER 8 DAYS. ANOTHER EXAMPLE WAS CITED REGARDING NATO'S ABILITY TO SUPPORT THE ARMY. AFTER THREE DAYS NATO'S ABILITY TO SUPPORT THE ARMY IS GREATER THAN THE PACT'S, AFTER AN INITIAL 6:1 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SORTIE RATIO DISADVANTAGE.

2. NOT ALL OF THE EFFECTS GIVEN IN EXAMPLES ABOVE COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE AGREED ASSUMPTIONS. WEIGHTING FACTORS GIVEN TO EFFECTIVENESS PARAMETERS CONTRIBUTED A GREAT DEAL TO THE RESULTS.

3. EARLY IN THE MEETING THE CHAIRMAN PROPOSED TO DEFER THE REVIEW OF THE BASE CASE AIR CAMPAIGN UNTIL THE END OF THE MEETING IN ORDER TO PRESENT THE EFFECTS OF ONE EXCURSION ON THE BASE CASE AIR CAMPAIGN. DOAE HAD DONE ONE EXCURSION, AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN, TO DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS AIR ATTACKS AGAINST THE SANCTUARY AIR BASES IN THE UK MIGHT HAVE ON THE ASSUMPTIONS. A DISCUSSION THEN ENSUED WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORT ON RESULTS OF BASE CASE CAMPAIGNS OR TO INCLUDE CONSIDERATIONS OF OTHER POINTS NOTED IN THE OPENING MEETING STATEMENTS. THE CANADIAN REP QUESTIONED, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, THE CHAIRMAN'S APPROACH TO PRESENTING THE EXCURSIONS AS HIS OWN INITIATIVE. THE CHAIRMAN DEFENDED HIS POSITION, STATING HE MERELY WISHED TO ILLUSTRATE THE DIRECTION THE GROUP COULD NOW TAKE; NOTHING HE SAID WOULD BE PRESENTED OUTSIDE THE MBFR TACTICAL AIR SUB-GROUP. THE GERMAN REP SUGGESTED THE GROUP MIGHT RECEIVE SOME VALUABLE INSIGHTS FROM EXCURSION RUNS FROM THE BASE CASE. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO CONDUCT EXCURSION RUNS AS PROVIDED FOR IN REF A. RESULTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE ORAL AND WRITTEN REPORT TO THE MBFR WORKING GROUP IN LATE OCTOBER 1973. AS A CONSEQUENCE, EXCURSIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

A. WARSAW PACT ATTACKS AGAINST SANCTUARY ZONES AND ALLOCATION OF AIR DEFENSE AGAINST THIS THREAT.

B. EMPLOYMENT OF FISHBED AIRCRAFT IN THE GROUND ATTACK ROLE.  
SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 04642 01 OF 02 012324Z

C. INCLUSION OF SOVIET AIR FORCES IN HUNGARY.

D. FORWARD DEPLOYMENT OF THE MOSCOW-KIEV AREA STRATEGIC RESERVES.

4. DETAILS OF ASSUMPTIONS, PARAMETERS AND TIMING OF THESE EXCURSIONS WERE DISCUSSED IN THE MEETING AND RESULTS WILL BE PRESENTED BY DOAE AT THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING.

SECRET

PAGE 01 NATO 04642 02 OF 02 012330Z

73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

MBFR-04 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 SS-15 NSC-10 OMB-01 AEC-11

IO-15 H-03 DRC-01 /159 W

----- 116185

R 011942Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1879

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 4642

5. OTHER POINTS DEFERRED FOR DISCUSSION IN A LATER MEETING WERE:

A. THE USE OF WARSAW PACT LIGHT AND MEDIUM BOMBERS AT NIGHT IN COUNTERAIR ATTACKS AGAINST NATO AIRFIELDS.

B. FORWARD DEPLOYMENT OF WARSAW PACT AIR DEFENSE AIRCRAFT TO REPLACE ATTRITION IN THE FORWARD AREAS.

C. THE US REP PROMISED TO PROVIDE FURTHER DATA ON F-111 MISSION EFFECTIVENESS TO CORRELATE ITS CAPABILITY WITH THE MODEL INPUTS.

D. 1975 AIRCRAFT SHELTER SITUATION.

E. MEMBERS OF THE SUB-GROUP WERE ASKED TO TABLE ANY OTHER EXCURSIONS THEY WOULD LIKE EXAMINED IN THE FUTURE - THERE WERE NONE TABLED AT THIS STAGE OF THE MEETING.

6. SHAPE REP EXPRESSED SOME MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE ASSUMPTIONS  
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 04642 02 OF 02 012330Z

USED IN THE BASE CASE BECAUSE OF THE OUTCOME BEING SO FAVORABLE TO NATO AFTER THE FOURTH DAY OF THE AIR CAMPAIGN. HE MET GENERAL OPPOSITION TO A REOPENING OF ASSUMPTIONS USED IN THE BASE CASE. DOAE EMPHASIZED THE REDUCTION RUNS MADE SO FAR ONLY PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO THE PROBLEM AND NOT CONCLUSIONS. PRELIMINARY RUNS SHOW THAT REDUCTIONS HAVE VERY LITTLE EFFECT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE AIR BATTLE AFTER THE FOURTH DAY. GERMAN REP SUGGESTED THAT COMPUTER ANALYSES ONLY GIVE INSIGHTS AT

BEST AND CONCLUSIONS SHOULD NOT BE DRAWN FROM EARLY COMPUTER RESULTS.

7. BRITISH REP INJECTED COMMENT ON THE IMPACT OF US UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL OF 50 DUAL CAPABLE AIRCRAFT FROM NATO.

GERMAN REP THEN PROPOSED THE SUB-GROUP ASK DOAE TO MAKE A COMPUTER RUN ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF 50 DUAL CAPABLE AIRCRAFT. US REP OBJECTED TO THIS, CITING THE PREVIOUS DECISION OF THE MBFR WORKING GROUP (REF B) AND DRAWING ON GUIDANCE IN REF C.

GERMAN REP WITHDREW HIS PROPOSAL AND THE MATTER WAS DROPPED.

8. CHAIRMAN THEN PROPOSED A REQUEST BE MADE TO THE MBFR WORKING GROUP ASKING GUIDANCE ON FURTHER REDUCTION POSSIBILITIES. THE REDUCTION POSSIBILITIES CONDUCTED SO FAR ARE BASED UPON GUIDANCE IN REF A, BUT THE SUB-GROUP RECOGNIZES THAT THEY ARE BY NO MEANS ALL INCLUSIVE. FURTHER GUIDANCE IS THEREFORE NEEDED. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO MAKE THIS REQUEST. THE MEETING CONCLUDED WITH A STATEMENT ON THE WORK TO BE DONE. REPORTS ON EXCURSIONS WILL BE IN WRITING AND SUBMITTED TO CAPITALS FOR REVIEW.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST F-111 EFFECTIVENESS DATA BE PROVIDED BY OCTOBER 10 TO VERIFY THE CAPABILITIES ASSIGNED THE AIRCRAFT IN THE AIR CAMPAIGN.

RUMSFELD

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 02 APR 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973NATO04642  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS 12/31/81  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NATO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731064/abqcecl.dcl  
**Line Count:** 190  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** n/a  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A. AC/276(SGTA)-N/18 (2ND REVISE), 21 DECEMBER 1972 B. AC/276-R(73)18, 6      SEPTEMBER 1973 C. STATE 171725  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2001 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**  
  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005  
  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MBFR: SUB-GROUP ON TACTICAL AIR MEETING SEPTEMBER 18-20, 1973  
**TAGS:** PARM, NATO  
**To:** STATE  
SECDEF INFO USNMR SHAPE  
USLOSACLANT  
USCINCEUR  
CINCUSAFA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

